



# Sen. Dale Brandland's

## UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

1/28/03

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### Committee Assignments

Agriculture  
Health & Long Term Care  
Judiciary

Dear Friends,

As your representative in Olympia, it is my pleasure to keep you informed of the debates, decisions and deliberations over legislation that is of interest to you. I intend to send out periodic updates to let you know of important meetings, upcoming legislation and informative tidbits. Please contact my office with any concerns or questions. Again, it is a pleasure to serve you.

Sincerely,

Dale E. Brandland, 42<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

### IMPORTANT DATES:

#### Wednesday, Jan. 29

8:00 am: Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a public hearing on Sen. Brandland's "foreign judgments" bill (**SB 5251**)

10:30 am, Senate Floor debate on 2003 Supplemental Budget

1:30 pm: Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee will hold a public hearing on Internet pornography at public libraries (**SB 5242**)

#### Thursday, Jan. 30

1:30 pm: Senate Agriculture Committee will hold public hearing on **SB 5195** (grain forwarding) and **SB 5196** (Ag products), both co-sponsored by Sen. Brandland

- This last week, a proposal (**SB 5001**) to counter the state Supreme Court's ruling on felony murder passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and now awaits further action in the Senate Rules Committee. Clarifying the Legislature's original intent that felonious assault can be a precursor to a felony murder charge is crucial to maintaining safe families and strong communities.
- This week, we will be voting on the **2003 Supplemental Budget**. By implementing some of Gov. Locke's budget proposals early – state employee hiring freezes, reducing state agency spending, and managing the Basic Health Plan more efficiently – we can save \$127 million now and \$250 million in the next budget cycle. The more we save now, the less we'll have to cut in the 2003-05 budget.
- Senior citizens and disabled retirees will receive a property tax break if **SB 5034** is approved. The bill raises the income limit for property tax deferrals, raises the income eligibility levels for property tax exemptions, and raises the allowable income to qualify for a valuation freeze. It also allows for a deduction of health care insurance premiums from the definition of "disposable income" when determining eligibility.

### Angry senators challenge court

Outrage at the state Supreme Court propelled the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday to approve a bill to counteract a ruling that jeopardizes the convictions of nearly 300 imprisoned murders.

"It seems like we're lacking in plain old common sense here," said Sen. Dale Brandland, R-Bellingham. "I'm wondering what we're going to get next." – *The Columbian*, 1/24/03

### Why propose a supplemental budget?

A supplemental budget is usually used to take care of any unexpected costs that have occurred since the operating budget was written. The Senate Republican supplemental budget will save the state **\$127 million** for the rest of the 2003 budget year. This bow waves into **\$250 million** in savings for the next biennium. It won't solve all our state's budget problems, but it's a step in the right direction.